



MEMO



N O R T H C A R O L I N A D I V I S I O N O F
E M E R G E N C Y M A N A G E M E N T

Gov. Perdue and Cabinet Members Kick Off Hurricane Season with Simulation Exercise

Gov. Bev Perdue joined her Cabinet leaders, Council of State members and emergency management officials May 28 for a one-day simulation and training exercise to prepare for hurricane season. The four-hour exercise was designed to foster discussion about the roles and responsibilities of state leaders and agencies in preparing for and responding to a major hurricane in North Carolina. It was the first such exercise ever conducted for the state's senior leaders.

The governor requested the session to ensure that her staff and agencies were ready for hurricanes or other disasters. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and secretaries from the departments of Crime Control and Public Safety, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Environment and Natural Resources and Correction, as well as the commissioners of Agriculture and Insurance, also participated in the training.

"Every piece of state government is here getting ready. And everybody knows what their role is. I know what my role is as a brand-new governor,"

Perdue said.

Perdue proclaimed May 24-30 Hurricane Preparedness Week and reminded citizens that 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the state's costliest and most destructive storm. Hurricane Floyd struck the state Sept. 16, 1999 leaving behind 52 deaths and \$6 billion in damages.

"In North Carolina we understand from experience the power and destruction of hurricanes. We can't prevent

hurricanes from coming, but there are things we can do to be prepared," said Gov. Perdue. "I urge all families, businesses and local governments to check your emergency plans and emergency kits before any disaster strikes."

Hurricane season runs June through November. This season, NOAA predicts nine to 14 names storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes.

"The truth is: it doesn't really matter how many storms are predicted," said state Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell. "It only takes one storm to cause significant damage to any portion of our state."

Hoell said history has proven that even tropical storms can bring major flooding damage.

"The best way citizens can prepare is by making plans and gather supplies now...before a storm strikes," said Hoell.

For more information on hurricane preparedness, visit www.readync.org.



Director Doug Hoell, Gov. Bev Perdue, Secretary Reuben Young and Assistant Director for Recovery Emily Young participate in the Governor's Hurricane Exercise.



Members of the Governor's Cabinet and Council of State participated in the half-day exercise to prepare for hurricane season.

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NCEM/ NCNG Break Ground on New Headquarters

Governor Bev Perdue joined Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Reuben Young, Emergency Management Director Doug Hoell and Major General William Ingram of the N.C. National Guard May 26 to break ground for the new National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and Emergency Management Office.

The 237,000 square foot facility also will house the Highway Patrol's communications center, the Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation's traffic congestion management center.

Construction is expected to be completed within two years and could create up to 4,200 jobs. The \$56 million project will be funded with \$41.5 million in stimulus money and \$14.5 million in state funds previously set aside for the project. The building will be located behind the current National Guard office across the highway from the RBC Center in Raleigh.

Once completed, Emergency Management will be able to house all branches of the division in one location, with the exception of field staff. Currently, the division is scattered among three buildings. This new state of the art facility will provide key state agencies a place to work together and coordinate joint response activities when disaster strikes.



Gov. Bev Perdue, Rep. David Price and Maj. Gen. William Ingram break ground for the new N.C. National Guard and Emergency Management headquarters in Raleigh.

North Carolina Holds First Earthquake Exercise

In June, North Carolina will host its first ever statewide earthquake exercise. The exercise is designed to provide training, evaluate current plans and enhance interagency coordination in response to a catastrophic earthquake impacting the state.

While earthquakes in the state are rare, they are possible. Twenty-two earthquakes have caused damage in North Carolina during the past three centuries; the last one struck Henderson County in 1981. Seismologists have identified four earthquake source zones in or near North Carolina: the Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone, Southern Appalachian Seismic Zone, Charleston, SC Seismic Zone and the Giles County, Virginia Seismic Zone.

During the two-day exercise, state and local emergency management staff and State Emergency Response Team partners will be evaluated on their response to a simulated earthquake in the North Carolina Mountains. Participants will be graded on their command and control coordination, how they make critical decisions, notify appropriate agencies and integrate state and federal assets in the recovery process.

Participating agencies include the State Emergency Response Team, local counties and several universities and colleges.

The exercise will be held June 23-24 in the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and in numerous local EOCs in the western part of the state. For more information, contact Carolyn Freitag at 919-715-9213 or cfreitag@ncem.org.

NOAA's Hurricane Hunter Visits Raleigh and Wilmington

"Miss Piggy," one of two aircrafts scientists use to understand how tropical storms work, paid a visit to Raleigh on May 6th and Wilmington on May 7th. The Lockheed WP-3D Orion is one of the Hurricane Hunters used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to fly into the center of the storms. The plane and her crew made the two-day special stop in North Carolina to talk about the dangers of hurricanes and related flooding.

More than 2,000 people toured the plane at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport to learn how meteorologists and other scientists gather and interpret information about the storms as they fly through them. The P-3 Orion is designed to fly through the intense winds, rain, hail, updrafts and downdrafts to make it to the center of the storm to measure pressure, humidity, temperatures speed and direction as those measurements indicate the storm's true structure and intensity. Some flights can last up to 10 hours as the information is collected and sent. The data collected serves two purposes: to help forecasters make accurate predictions during a hurricane and to help researchers better understand storm processes to improve future forecast models.



One of the NOAA Hurricane Hunter pilots describes operations to CCPS Chief Deputy Secretary Rudy Rudisill

NC and VA Hold Annual Hurricane Meeting

North Carolina's and Virginia's emergency management divisions will hold their annual evacuation planning meeting June 10th to review evacuation and reentry procedures for northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia in preparation for the 2009 hurricane season. Emergency management staff from both states also will discuss regional traffic control, public information, law enforcement and shelter opening procedures. The meeting will be held in Chesapeake, VA. For more information, contact the NCEM Eastern Branch at 252-520-4923.

CERT combines training and exercise in creating instructors

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held a three-day train-the-trainer class at Cary Fire Station 7 in April.

CERT is a volunteer grassroots program that provides training in emergency preparedness and basic disaster response techniques so that volunteers can take a more active role in the safety of the people in their neighborhood, workplace or school during times of crisis.

Following a tornado, house fire or structure collapse, local citizens are often the first ones at the disaster scene. Communities with trained CERT members can provide immediate assistance to victims and organize volunteers at the location. The trained team members also can provide support to first responders if needed.

A basic CERT class consists of 21 hours of instruction on disaster preparedness, fire suppression, team organization, search and rescue, medical principles and treatment, disaster psychology and terrorism. The CERT train-the-trainer course, like the one conducted in Cary, prepares local citizens to become instructors themselves so they can go out and



CERT members simulate transporting injured victim.

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CERT continuation The Cary train-the-trainer class had 21 participants. At the end of the three-day class, students demonstrated their newly-learned skills as they searched for victims following a mock tornado and structure fire. Participants performed search and rescue techniques, surveyed damaged structures, evacuated injured parties, and set up a medical triage area.

The CERT program is one of five federal Citizen Corps programs whose mission is to promote a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility. Currently there are 121 registered CERT programs in North Carolina with approximately 2400 members.

North Carolina's new CERT program manager, Patty Moore, joined the Division of Emergency Management in March. Moore comes to CERT from the private sector where she did corporate training; she also is an active member of the Cary CERT team.

Patty would like incorporate the exercise element in future CERT train-the-trainer classes, as well as regular neighborhood CERT classes, to give participants hands-on experience in what to expect at a disaster. She also is focused on revitalizing and strengthening the current program and incorporating new CERT teams in more counties.

"There are some counties that are vulnerable to a disaster that could benefit from the training and exercise CERT provides," said Moore.

Patty hopes to offer CERT programs designed for students at the high school and college levels, drawing on college students who attend the 188 public and private colleges and universities in the state.

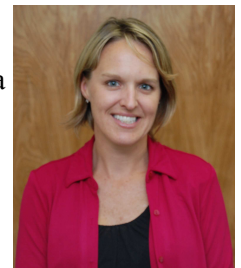
To start a CERT team in a community, all it takes is commitment and a sponsoring agency like a police department or fire department. You can start a CERT team with little to no money, adds Moore, by seeking support from area businesses and organizations in the community.

Patty is available to offer support and guidance to established CERT teams and to those wanting to start new teams in their communities.

Patty can be reached at 919-715-0090 or pmoore@ncem.org.



CERT members simulate providing medical treatment to a victim.



Patty Moore

Central Branch Office Hosts Hurricane Meeting

Approximately 70 staff from local, county and state governments gathered last month to discuss how the central region of the state is prepared to respond to hurricanes. Emergency Management's Elaine Wathen reviewed a checklist of hurricane season preparedness activities. Dr. Lew Stringer of the Office of Emergency Medical Services reviewed procedures for medically-fragile population shelters, while Col. Mark Nelson discussed the status and capabilities of NC National Guard resources.

Meeting participants also heard about talk group assignments on interoperable emergency responders' network (known as VIPER), the status of credentialing for Incident Management Teams, and improvements to WebEOC. Beverly Williams of Harnett County Emergency Management discussed lessons learned as a host county from exercising the Coastal Regional Evacuation Shelter Plan.

The meeting wrapped up with Jeff Orrock and Bill Sammler National Weather Service reviewing weather forecasting tools and new products that will be used for the upcoming season.

For more information, contact NCEM Central Branch Office at (919) 575-4122.

Disaster Medical Preparedness Conference

The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services hosted a series of workshops in Greensboro last month on medical preparedness. The series provided an opportunity for professionals from numerous agencies and associations to discuss how disaster impacts the health care community in North Carolina.

Workshops included an update on the strategic national stockpile, interfacing between public health preparedness and disaster medicine, home care and hospice disaster preparedness, planning and preparedness for long-term care facilities, and medical perceptions on preparedness.

For more information, contact Darlene Johnson at (919) 733-3890 or djohnson@ncem.org.

VIPER Network Exercise Scheduled

A statewide communications exercise is scheduled for emergency responders on June 23rd to test and demonstrate large scale communication interoperability with multiple users while using the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) network. Participants will establish communications with each other using hand held radios. This exercise will serve as the communications component to the earthquake exercise and interoperable communications will be tested on the county, domestic preparedness region and state levels.

The COMM EX 2009 exercise will be similar to the one held in Moore County back in April.

For more information, contact Mike Montague at (919) 715-2522 or mmontague@ncem.org.



Salvation Army Responds to Localized Flooding in Western NC

On May 27th, the Salvation Army's Statesville office provided assistance to families that were evacuated after heavy rains prompted flash flooding in western North Carolina. The Salvation Army helped 33 people in eight families with three nights lodging. The Statesville office serves Ashe, Iredell and Wilkes counties.

For more information, contact Ashley Delamar, PIO at (704) 972-3438 or Ashley.delamar@uss.salvationarmy.org.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NCEM.ORG



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The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management was formed in 1977 to coordinate the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of all agencies for emergency management within North Carolina. It performs this mission by planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing and activating emergency management programs during times of need.

"In the Business of Saving Lives and Protecting Property"

Websites for Information

WEBSITE

www.fema.gov
www.nemaweb.org
www.emaponline.org
www.emacweb.org
www.nccrimecontrol.org
www.nws.noaa.gov
www.ncsparta.net
www.readync.com
<http://apps.dot.state.nc.us/tims/>
www.redcross.org
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster/>
<http://149.168.212.15/NcVOAD/index.htm>
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
<http://gcmd.gsfc.nasa.gov/records/NASA-NDRD.html>
<http://www.freshstart.ncat.org/>
<http://training.fema.gov/>

AGENCY

Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Emergency Management Association
Emergency Management Accreditation Program
Emergency Management Assistance Compact
NC Dept of Crime Control and Public Safety
National Weather Service
Web EOC
NC Dept of Crime Control and Public Safety
NC Dept of Transportation Statewide Road Information
American Red Cross
NC Cooperative Extension
NC Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
National Hurricane Center
Natural Disaster Reference Database
NC Center for Appropriate Technology
Emergency Management Institute